

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Idea Exchange

By Walter E. Myer

TWO weeks ago we reported the visit to the United States of a group of students from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain and Australia. These foreign students spent some time in the national capital as guests of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER and associated publications.

These were not ordinary students. They were carefully selected and represented the best that their countries could offer. All of them were well informed. All had studied current international problems and they spoke forcefully, in excellent English.

Provisions was made for these young men and women to sit down with students from the Washington high schools to discuss world issues such as the European Recovery Program, Soviet-American relations, and the future of the United Nations.

The discussions were frank and candid. Some of the visitors, guardedly and politely but nevertheless firmly, questioned the wisdom of certain American foreign policies. American institutions and customs also were subjected to some criticism. The American students were equally forthright in discussing the countries from which their visitors came.

The give-and-take of debate may not have left these students in agreement regarding the issues which were considered, but it did contribute to mutual understanding. The young people of different nationalities came to see what was in the minds of their foreign friends. The American students could understand better the way in which English youths look upon British problems and world issues. Similarly, the foreigners gained a clearer understanding of American problems and points of view.

Most of the young people who participated in these discussions came away more reasonable, more tolerant, more inclined to be fair to the opinions of others, than they had been. If all

the students of the United States could sit down frequently with foreign students to talk about common problems, we might soon be on the road to international peace and understanding.

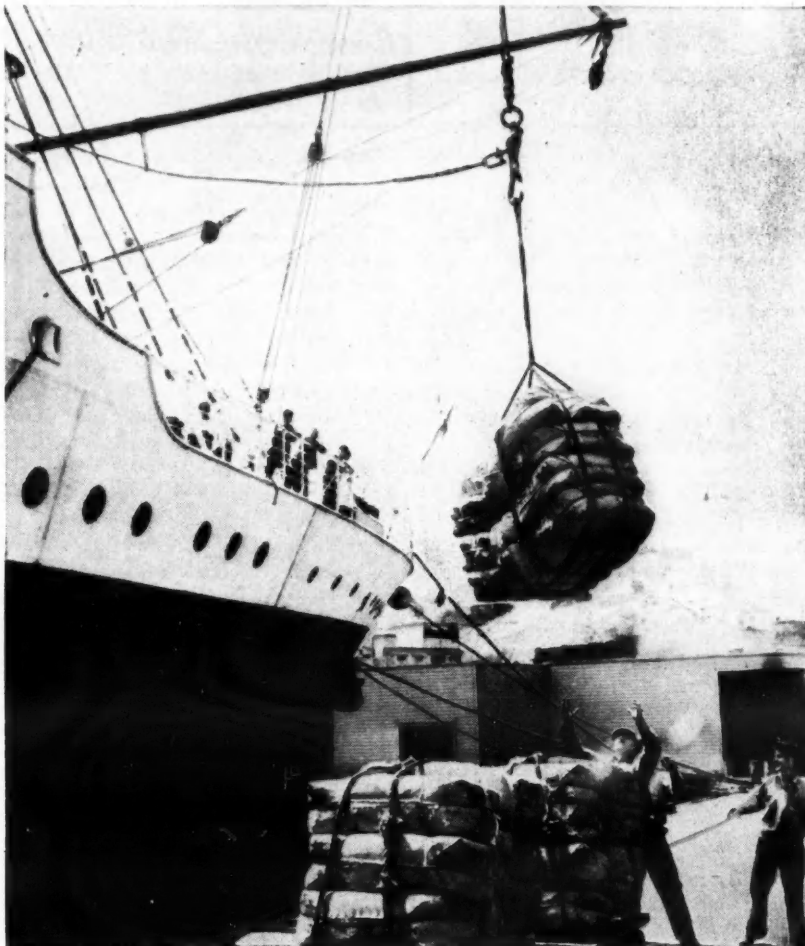
Obviously it is impossible for all to enjoy that privilege.

Plans now under way by our government will provide for increasing interchange of students, but most of us will not find it possible to engage in frequent discussions with foreigners.

We can, however, do much to encourage understanding and good will. Each American student can conscientiously study foreign people, their problems, their needs, their points of view, their ideas. He can compare these ideas, problems, and opinions, with those which prevail in our own country. He can then work for policies which will serve the real interests of all, and which will insure harmony, peace and justice among the nations.



Walter E. Myer



EFFORTS ARE being made to increase world trade

U.S. and World Trade

Congress Must Soon Decide the Role America Will Play in Helping to Put Foreign Commerce on Sound Basis

THERE is going to be a great deal of news and discussion about foreign trade in the next few months. For some weeks now, representatives of more than 50 UN countries have been meeting in Havana, Cuba, for the purpose of working out the details of an International Trade Organization. This meeting is expected to end very shortly, and its recommendations will then be studied and debated by the individual governments involved.

In the event that the governments of these countries, including our own, can agree upon a Trade Organization, this agency will try in every possible way to promote world commerce on a large scale. It will seek to lower tariffs and other barriers to trade, so that countries can carry on business with one another more freely than they have been able to for a number of years.

Many leaders, both here and abroad, are convinced that the only hope of achieving world prosperity and of building a lasting peace is to develop a thriving trade among the various nations. Unless countries can sell their surplus goods abroad, they cannot buy the foreign products which they need and do not have.

At the present time, of course, many countries have very little, if anything,

to sell in other lands. To help these countries, certain of the more prosperous nations, mainly the United States, are sending them food and goods either as gifts or loans. As soon as the war-torn lands revive their agriculture and industry, they will then be in a position to engage in foreign trade on a business rather than charitable basis.

But will they have the opportunity to do so? The answer is that they will not unless some of the major obstacles now in the way of foreign trade are removed. Before we go into this matter, however, let us briefly review the importance of world commerce.

In the case of many nations that do not have enough land or resources to supply their essential needs, the opportunity to trade with other countries is of life-and-death importance. The United States is more nearly self-sufficient than any other large nation, but even we are vitally dependent upon being able to trade with other lands.

Consumers in the United States buy only about half the cotton which is raised in this country. The rest is shipped abroad. Nearly a third of the American tobacco crop is sold to foreigners. Our farmers ship about a tenth of their wheat overseas. Many

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Plans for Africa Made by Britain

The Vast Dark Continent Has Much Natural Wealth That Remains Undeveloped

AFRICA, the scene of important campaigns in World War II, is once again astir with military activity. In Libya, on the shores of the Mediterranean, the United States is reopening a great air base that served American planes during the war. In North Africa, Kenya, and elsewhere on the continent, Britain is greatly strengthening her military outposts, and building some new ones.

There are several reasons why the two countries are taking these steps. Both the United States and Britain want to be in a position to go to the aid of Italy, Greece, and Turkey in case the independence of those nations is ever threatened.

Moreover, the United States and Britain must be prepared this year for possible trouble in the nearby Middle East. Palestine, at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, is to be divided into separate nations for the Arabs and Jews, and there is fighting between the two peoples. If the conflict should become more intense, the British troops stationed in Palestine might need reinforcements.

Actually the United Nations should send a "world police force" to keep order in the Holy Land, and it may still do so. But until the UN acts, the task rests on the British, and they may ask for American assistance. Thus, the two countries feel that they must be in readiness at bases in neighboring Africa.

From Africa, too, the British can stand guard over the sea lanes on which their ships go to and from Asia.

Finally, Britain wants to be ready to defend Africa itself in time of emergency. Now that India and Burma are independent, the largest and richest of Britain's overseas possessions are her colonies in Africa. Because they are the source of many raw materials which she needs, she wants to protect them at all costs.

While making these military preparations, the British also are going ahead to develop the resources of the colonies. These lands occupy more than two-fifths of the continent's area and contain more than half of the inhabitants of Africa.

During the next 10 years, the British plan to spend large sums of money on improvements in the colonies. They will build roads, bridges, and ports to make it easier for raw materials to be taken out of remote areas. Swamps will be drained, and the rich African soil will be made to produce greater crops of food.

Across rushing African rivers, huge dams will be built. One of these will

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THIS IS THE policy which the United States pursued in connection with its foreign trade after World War I

20TH CENTURY FUND

Foreign Trade

(Continued from page 1)

other farm products are sold in large quantities to outside countries. American agriculture would suffer serious losses if foreign sales should be cut off.

A number of our manufacturing industries depend heavily upon outside customers. Before the war, the majority of American factories were producing more than the people of the United States could afford to buy. They were disposing of the surplus to foreign markets. The demand from the outside enabled them to employ many thousands of workmen who would not have had jobs if the factories had produced only as much as could be sold in this country.

During and since the war, of course, our factories have greatly expanded and increased their output. Hence they will need to sell still more goods abroad if they are to keep going at their present rate of production. If they cannot continue to sell large quantities of goods to other lands, they will be obliged to reduce their output and to dismiss a great many of their employees.

It is true that our manufacturers and farmers have less need now for foreign markets than they do in ordinary times. The output of many products is still too small to satisfy the demands of the American people themselves.

Our producers must, however, look beyond the present emergency. They must, so far as possible, supply foreign customers even during these days of scarcity, for if they should lose their markets abroad, they would feel the effects severely when normal times return. After the home demand is satisfied and shortages disappear, they will need an export trade.

Thus far, we have been speaking of the necessity of selling to foreigners. All Americans benefit directly or indirectly by these sales. But that is only one side of the picture. We need to buy from foreigners as well as to sell to them.

You cannot sit down for your breakfast without being impressed by this fact. The coffee comes from Latin America, chiefly from Brazil. If there is tea on the table, it is brought from Asia. Most of your sugar comes from Cuba. Pepper is imported from the East Indies. If there are bananas on the table, they were probably grown in Central America. Our diet would be much simpler and less varied if we could not call upon the world for many of the foods which we desire.

A number of our important medicines come from foreign lands. Camphor from Formosa, and quinine from

Java, are ingredients used very widely in the preparation of medicines. Our pharmacists and doctors depend heavily on other drugs imported from the four corners of the earth.

Foreign goods play a large part in the production of our most commonly manufactured articles. An automobile, for example, contains 300 materials imported from 55 countries. Your electric lights would be dim without tungsten from Bolivia, China, and Mexico. Of 37 important materials in your telephone, 18 come from abroad.

Minerals Needed

American mineral resources were badly depleted during the war. Our supplies of such essential minerals as copper, lead, and zinc should be replenished by imports from other countries. Imports as well as exports are essential to our industrial strength and to the maintaining of high living standards. If we are to be strong and prosperous we must sell certain products to foreigners and we must buy other things from them.

At present our export trade is flourishing. It is estimated that, during the year 1947, Americans shipped abroad goods to the value of 14 billion dollars. At the same time we bought from foreigners goods to the value of only 5½ billion dollars. More went out of the country than came in.

A question comes up at this point. How can the people of foreign countries get 14 billion dollars' worth of goods from us while sending us but 5½ billion dollars' worth in exchange? Where do they get the money to pay us for the extra 8½ billion dollars' worth?

The answer is that our government and the American people are making huge gifts of food, clothing, and materials to the people of certain war-devastated countries. This is being done to relieve suffering and to restore factories and equipment injured and destroyed by war. To some countries we have made large loans, and these countries use the money thus supplied to buy our goods.

Such a policy is wise and humane in the present world emergency. In more normal times, however, if we are to prosper through foreign trade, it must be a matter of exchanging goods for goods. Our nation as a whole is actually poorer if we consistently send more products and materials out of the country than we bring in from the outside. In other words, we are the losers if we go on year after year selling more goods abroad than we buy from other lands. By doing so, we use up our resources more rapidly than we would if we bought more products from abroad.

The American people have not understood this fact, and for many years they have sold much more to foreigners than they have bought from them. In the period from 1914 to 1933, the value of goods sold by Americans to foreigners was 24 billion dollars greater than the value of goods which we purchased from them. During these years foreigners borrowed money from Americans and used it to buy our goods.

When it came time to pay back the loans, the foreigners were often unable to do so. We would not permit them to sell enough of their products in our country so that they could get hold of American money to repay the loans. There was a strong feeling

among the majority of Americans that goods bought from abroad would compete with similar products made in this country.

It was argued that labor was cheap in other countries; that wages were low. It was said that foreign firms, paying low wages, could produce cheaply and undersell American producers who paid higher wages.

Those who wanted this country to buy more products from abroad replied that our producers did not need to fear foreign competition. They said that well-paid American workers, using modern tools and machinery, could produce goods more efficiently and cheaply than low-paid foreign workers with poor equipment.

This was a highly controversial question, with strong arguments on each side, but the people who feared imports had their way. High tariff laws were adopted, placing heavy taxes upon foreign products coming into this country. These taxes discouraged goods from abroad and limited their sale here.

Trade Agreements

So it turned out that, for a number of years after the beginning of the First World War, we shipped a great deal out of the country and brought in much less.

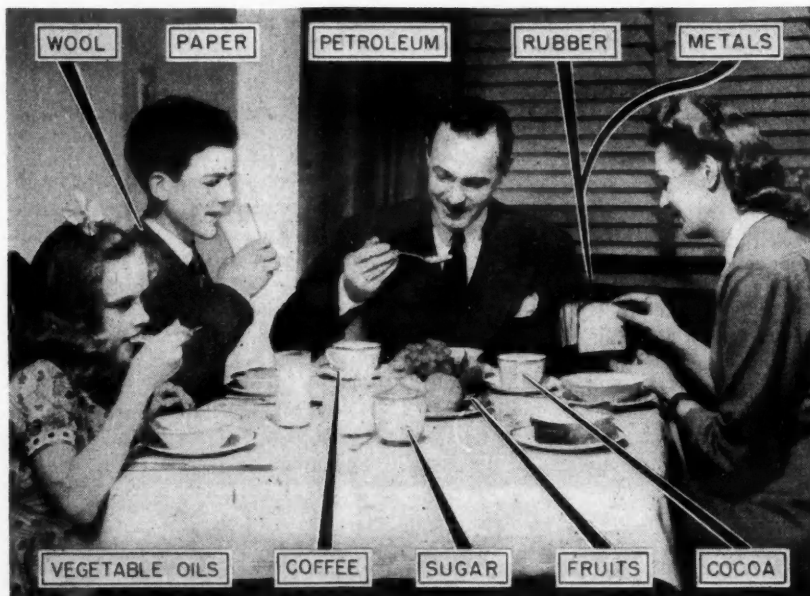
In 1934, our tariff policy was changed considerably. Our government adopted the reciprocal (give-and-take) trade agreements plan. The purpose of this policy was twofold. First, it undertook to increase the sale of many kinds of foreign goods in our country—goods which would not compete too severely with American products. The second purpose was to help other countries to buy still more of our products. Here is how the plan, which is still in effect, works:

The United States government proposes to a foreign nation that a treaty between the two should be arranged. It says, in effect, to the nation: "We shall select a number of your products which we need and which will not compete greatly with American producers. We shall lower the tariff on these articles so that it will be easy for you to sell them to us.

"In return, you are to select certain things which we produce and which you need—articles which will not compete too much with any of your producers. You are to lower your tariff rates on such articles so that it will be easier for you to buy them from us.

"The effect of this plan will be to lower many of the tariff rates on both sides so that trade may flow more freely between our country and yours, without harming the interests of either."

(Concluded on page 7)



A FAMILY in its home benefits in many ways from imports. We rely entirely or partly on foreign countries for products noted in the picture above.

GALLOWAY PHOTO

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

The question of whether Congress should lead in forming public opinion or whether the lawmakers should always follow the opinions of voters is one that is as old as democracy itself. Statements by a Senator and a former Congressman presenting both sides of the problem are summarized in the paragraphs that follow. Summary of an article by a man who was once a candidate for public office is also presented.

"A Call to Congress to Lead, Not Follow," by Jerry Voorhis, former U. S. Representative from California, in *New York Times Magazine*.

To a great many persons the phrase "representative government" means that Senators and Representatives are sent to Washington, not to use their own judgment and knowledge, but rather to reflect in their votes the opinion of a majority of the people



HARRIS & EWING
FORMER CONGRESSMAN Jerry Voorhis of California argues that the lawmakers should, in the main, lead rather than merely follow public opinion.

in their districts. At first glance it would seem that the Congressman who simply heeds the voice of the people back home is acting in the spirit of representative government.

What must he do, though, when all his knowledge leads him to one point of view and most of the people in his district hold another? Many Congressmen say that the opinion of the district should prevail.

Is this a proper rule for statesmen? Is it the only way for a Senator or a Representative to make himself popular with the voters?

No, it is not. The Congress of the United States does not have to be a mere echo of what "inquiring reporters" and poll-takers say the people think. It is just as possible to lead and inform public opinion as to follow it. Surely there is an obligation resting on every Senator and Representative to make his views known to the people of his district. Just as surely it is his duty to cast his vote in the best interests of the whole nation, as he sees them, even though the majority opinion among his constituents may be on the other side.

The truly valid idea of "representative government" holds that the people elect representatives because they expect from these officials better, more farsighted action than the people as a whole, with their limited access to all the facts, can provide. The representative is supposed not so much to

reflect opinions of his constituents as to serve their best long-run interests.

Democracy cannot work unless public opinion is led by the concrete proposals of men who dare to offer leadership to the people. It is possible for a Congressman to lead and persuade the people of his district. He knows that when he was a candidate for office he organized public support for his campaign. Likewise, the Congressman can organize public opinion to gain support for statesmanlike action.

Members of Congress have access every day and every hour to information about both national and foreign affairs which, in the nature of the case, the average citizen cannot know. Senators and Representatives must act on this information if the country's laws are to be made on a sound basis.

To this higher concept of representative government Congress can rise, if it will. Confronted by unquestioned responsibility for the future welfare of the nation—and indeed in times like these, of the world—it is fervently to be hoped that the membership of the House and Senate will be lifted to the point of genuine leadership.

"If Congress Is Bad, Then So Is the Voter," by Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, *New York Times Magazine*.

The people who help a Congressman win the election look upon him, quite naturally, as their personal representative at the Capitol rather than as an officer of the National Government. Many of the constituents are personal friends, and all of those who voted for the successful candidate in the heat of the campaign naturally feel they deserve special consideration.

There is nothing unworthy in this feeling, but the multitude of requests for minor personal services limits, if it does not come close to destroying, the effectiveness of many capable representatives. The legislator is placed in a dilemma. If he neglects the personal services, if he refuses to see the constant stream of visitors, the voters may be offended and withdraw their

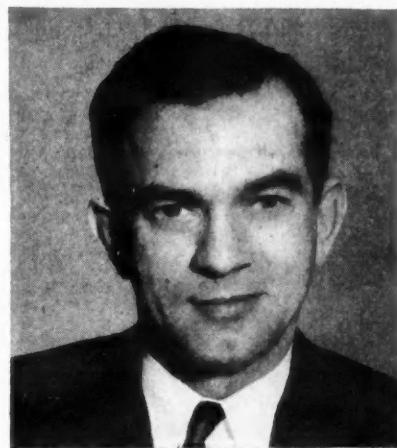
Aviation fire hazards will be reduced by a new type of firewall for planes. The wall consists of panels made of plastic placed between two layers of very thin steel. The panels are extremely light. A person can hold his hand within one inch of the wall, even though the temperature on the other side has, for 30 minutes, been over 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

During 1947 the United States Patent Office issued about 350 patents each week. This number was considerably lower than the 1946 rate, mainly because the office is short of people trained to examine new inventions. Most of the discoveries were designed to make people more efficient and comfortable, and very few patents were given for weapons of war.

Television equipment, which is being used primarily in the field of entertainment, may be used for

support. In addition, it is gratifying to be able to help one's friends.

On the other hand, if he does give his attention to these matters he has no time left for the intelligent study and reflection that sound legislation requires. Seemingly there is no way out of this dilemma until constituents learn that in demanding the personal attention of the representatives they



HARRIS & EWING
SENATOR FULBRIGHT of Arkansas believes that Congressmen should, for the most part, follow the wishes of the majority of the voters back home.

are hurting their own larger interests.

It sounds high-minded and statesmanlike to say that a legislator should have regard only for the national welfare and should not consider the short-term effect of his actions upon the voters back home. Like other simple rules of thumb, it is misleading and futile. If a man is to be an effective legislator, obviously he must be elected. His problem is to reconcile his actions for the national welfare with the demands of people in his district.

As we all know, the various sections of this country differ in economic, educational, social, and intellectual standards, and in political understanding. The elected representative, if he is to survive for an appreciable time and contribute anything to the welfare of the nation, cannot offend too often or too deeply the beliefs of

his constituents. Over a period of years it is very difficult if not impossible for him to rise very far above the level of those who elect him.

This being so, the object of our efforts, when considering improvement in the quality of our legislators, should be primarily the people who elect them. When actions of some Senators and Representatives are disgraceful, the remedy must be found through the improvement of the conditions which enabled such individuals to be elected.

If the citizens of a district are careless, shortsighted, or selfish, it can hardly be expected that they will select from their midst a wise and able statesman to represent them in Washington. People who want to improve Congress should increase public understanding of problems before Congress.

"I Run for Office," by Richard Neuberger in *Harper's*.

A person seeking election cannot afford to take firm stands on many questions. The temptation to pussy-foot and evade is overwhelming.

If politicians are cowards—and I believe they are—it is because the public has made them so. At many public gatherings I have felt that the audience waited tensely to deny me support if I should utter one phrase contrary to the prejudices of the group I was addressing. Candidates are evasive because such conduct is politically profitable. The politician siding with a particular organization on nine issues out of ten is scorned for the tenth. By evading issues, he may win the support of groups he opposes.

The average citizen is half-hearted in supporting the candidate he favors. Then he asks why our lawmakers are so careful to avoid the wrath of small, active pressure groups. The answer is simple. Politicians know that one active enemy can do damage that 20 indifferent supporters can never offset.

The people must take more interest in public affairs, and must judge officeholders on the basis of their whole records rather than on one or two issues.

What Is Happening In Science

other purposes as time goes on. Officials of the armed forces recently viewed rocket demonstrations by means of a television camera located some distance from the actual tests. It is thought that in other fields, such as traffic control, industry, and



ACME
STUDENT OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS. Gladys Diaz de los Arcos, a 17-year-old Cuban girl, is preparing at Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, for a research career. She is one of many foreign students who are studying in this country on scholarships.

education, this method of observation will become increasingly important.

Statisticians at the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company estimate that the common cold costs the American public over \$1 billion a year. Each family in the United States spend an average of \$10 a year in treating colds, and the remainder of this sum may be accounted for in lost working hours.

A discovery credited to Russian scientists has proved valuable to our Department of Agriculture. The Soviet scientists found that large quantities of Vitamin C can be extracted from green walnuts. After additional experimentation in this country, it was discovered that the vitamin can also be extracted from the hulls of the nuts. Thus, we have a fairly large additional source of the vitamin found also in citrus fruit.

The Story of the Week

Civil Rights Controversy

The controversy which President Truman stirred up when he sent to Congress a special message on civil rights still rages. Some of the requests the President made were that Congress:

1. Pass a law against lynching. This would make lynching a federal crime for which the national government would try to catch and punish the lawbreakers.

2. Set up a branch of the federal government which would see to it that every American, regardless of race, or religion, has a fair chance to get a job for which he is qualified.

3. Make it unlawful for states to place poll taxes on the right to vote.

4. Abolish the practice of having separate accommodations for white and colored people on buses and trains.

President Truman believes that each of these steps must be taken promptly to make more secure the democratic and constitutional rights of the American people. He believes that Congress should approve the proposals because some states have been unwilling or slow to grant these privileges to all their citizens.

The severest criticisms against the four suggestions are coming chiefly from within the President's own party—from Democrats in southern states. They contend that Mr. Truman is asking Congress to take steps which should be left to the individual states.



SCENE from "Scudda Hoo-Scudda Hay," a movie of farm life and romance, starring Lon McCallister and June Haver.

The southerners say that this is particularly true of the proposals which affect Negroes. They insist that the states in which most Negroes live must work out their own problems.

The opposing Democratic members of Congress threaten to engage in a filibuster to prevent the nation's lawmakers from voting on each of the four proposals. They also warn Mr. Truman that they will seek to throw their full support behind some other Democratic candidate for the Presidency. The possible effects of this party split on the coming elections, and the plans of certain Southern Democrats will soon be discussed at length in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

Aid to Navajos

The Navajo Indians are receiving this month the first of two million dollars' worth of emergency relief. Congress voted these funds during its



A NAVAJO Indian home, and a herd of sheep and goats

special session last year after learning that many members of the once-proud tribe would die of starvation this winter unless help was rushed to them.

Times have been hard for the Navajos for some years. The 61,000 members of the tribe live on a large reservation—about 25,000 square miles in size—located in parts of Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. The land is almost worthless—barren and eroded—and is not able to furnish grazing for the herds of sheep which the Navajos raise for meat and wool.

The Indians may leave the reservation if they wish and seek jobs elsewhere. But most of them have had so little education that they are not equipped to work at good jobs in the white man's territory. So the majority of them have remained on the reservation, living in one-room houses made of logs and trying to exist on a diet of far less food than the average white American eats.

The plight of the Navajos has called attention to the problems of all American Indians. Congress is expected to study the whole situation this year. Then a thorough program providing more education for Indians, improving their land, giving them better hospitals, and securing other necessities may be worked out.

Gandhi Lives On!

In the days since Gandhi's assassination, there has been a continuous stream of editorial comment on the role he played during his long lifetime. The following quotations point out the great contribution which it is universally felt that Gandhi made to his and future generations:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "Gandhi did not live to see India free from bloodshed and destruction any more than Washington lived to see the perfection of the free government which he fought to establish on this continent. But like Washington, Gandhi stands out as one who played a major part in spreading the ideal of freedom in the world. Few men of our time are so sure to live in history as India's Mahatma, its Great Soul."

Richmond Times-Dispatch. "Although the nature of Gandhi's death shocked the world, his passing is no cause for mourning, since few men

live beyond his years. It should be rather a cause for rejoicing that so great and courageous a soul, consecrated to an ideal cherished by all men of good will, should have lived in our time to set an example that could well be a pattern for world peace."

Atlanta Constitution. "Mohandas K. Gandhi had, by the force of his great will and sanctity, brought more cohesion than was believed possible to the great, teeming masses of India, and had, within a brief span of time, provided the focus of effort which brought freedom to India. In a time when revolution in the ordinary sense is not possible against modern weapons, Gandhi's contribution was revolution by non-violence. . . . Gandhi will most certainly become a saint."

New York Times. "A new Gandhi cannot be expected—those come at intervals of centuries, not of years. But there may be a growth of strength and wisdom in men who have lived in the shadow of his greatness. . . . What we can now say is that the enormous impact of Gandhi's personality on humanity, as the flood of tributes to him has shown, gives us the strong hope that the yearning for peace and good will still lives, still strives, and will survive."



THE SCHOOL OF THE AIR is broadcast twice daily from the University of Wisconsin to public schools in the state. Programs cover a variety of subjects, and teachers are supplied with manuals that help them coordinate their classes with the School of the Air. In the picture above, a dramatic sketch is being presented.

Last Word in Censorship

Not long ago the Russian government decreed that all Soviet citizens, except such groups as foreign office officials, railroad agents, and hotel clerks, are forbidden to talk with foreigners. Of course, this order may not have much effect on the average Russian's contact with the outside world. For a long time it has been difficult for people from other countries to visit the Soviet Union, and many Russians have been afraid to be seen talking with persons from other countries.

Nevertheless, the new decree shows how far the Soviet government has gone in restricting freedom of speech. According to the *Washington Post*, it provides nearly every Russian citizen with "a special, private, personal iron curtain."

When restriction of free speech is begun in any country, the danger is that it will become increasingly severe. Russia's action is an example of the extremes to which censorship can go.

Trade by Air

Large numbers of cargo planes are now being used to carry American goods overseas. During 1947 the amount of freight sent by plane more than doubled over the previous year. Many of the new air lines specializing in cargo-hauling are doing a thriving business.

Speed of delivery is the principal advantage to shipping by air. This type of transport allows goods to be on sale in European shops within 48 hours from the time they arrive at an American airport. Sudden emergencies often demand a quick delivery. For example, oil production in a certain part of Venezuela was recently threatened with a long tie-up because of the lack of dredging equipment. However, a plane brought the necessary equipment from New York in one day, and operations continued on schedule.

Most of the new air lines are manned by fliers who received their experience during the war. Some who once carried war materials for the Air Transport Command today fly the same routes with cargoes of clothing, medicine, machinery, and even auto-



WINTERTIME in Washington, D. C.—a snow scene with the Washington Monument in the background

mobiles and livestock. The arrival of goods from the United States often attracts considerable attention. Shops sometimes advertise with a sign saying, "These goods were in America two days ago!"

Dispute Over Iran

During recent weeks, Russia has made a number of protests concerning activities of the United States government in various parts of the world. Her latest accusation is that our nation is converting Iran into a military base, apparently for use against the Soviet Union—that America is helping to fortify the Iranian boundary near Russian territory.

The U. S. State Department denies these charges. There are, it says, about 40 American soldiers and technicians in Iran, aiding that Middle Eastern nation in the training of its army. Our government denies that its representatives in Iran are helping to plan war against any country.

Several other complaints have been hurled back and forth. Our own government recently sent a note to Romania, a nation that is under Soviet influence, charging that Romania had failed to give its people "the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of press and publication, of religious worship, of political opinion and public meeting." Romania promised in her peace treaty with the Allies to provide these freedoms for her people.

The continual exchange of accusations between the United States and Communist countries—the so-called "war of words"—continues unabated.

Skiers from Norway

A group of seven crack skiers from Norway, members of the famous Snowball Ski Club of Oslo, are making a good-will tour in this country. They have already taken part in several winter sports meets and will participate next week in the skiing events at Lake Placid. They are also teaching Norwegian skiing methods and trying to popularize cross-country skiing among Americans.

The Snowball Ski Club was organized as a resistance group during the German occupation of Norway. Skimming over snow-covered trails and through forests of fir and spruce, these

top-flight Norwegian skiers made constant trouble for the Germans. Many of the club's members spent time in concentration camps for their opposition to the Nazi forces.

Heading the group now on tour is Reidar Andersen, one of the greatest ski-jumpers in Norway's history. He is a past Olympic winner and in a trip to America just before the war, he beat the best ski-jumpers in this country.

More Electricity

America needs more electric power. To fill that need, the nation's generating plants are setting out on a vast program of expansion that will take four years' time and will cost millions of dollars. When the program is complete, this country will be able to produce 30 per cent more electricity than at present.

Last year American plants turned out as much electricity as was produced in the rest of the world in 1946. Yet during December when the most

power was used, the demand came dangerously close to outrunning the supply. This situation was caused by the fact that in the past 10 years there has been a tremendous increase in power consumption. Most homes today have numerous electrical appliances. In the fall of 1947 the average American used almost twice as much electricity as he did a decade before.

Observers think the only possible change that might affect electricity production in the foreseeable future is the development of atomic energy for peacetime purposes. However, David Lilienthal, head of the Atomic Energy Commission, thinks that this possibility is at least ten years away. Power plants are pushing their present expansion program without counting on early developments in the atomic field.

Change in Germany

Next summer the Department of State will take over from the U. S. Army the responsibility of running our occupation zone in Germany. The coming change from military rule to civilian direction in our area of Germany is no surprise. We planned, even before the end of World War II, to have the Army in control first and to change to the State Department as soon as it was considered practical.

The German people in the American zone may notice little difference in government when the change is made. United States Army troops will remain in Germany to act as a police organization and enforce the policies laid down by the State Department.

The most valuable crop in our country is corn, and it is grown in all of the 48 states. Iowa leads the production of this grain, with Illinois next in rank. Nowadays, no part of corn is wasted. Even the tassels are used to feed livestock, and industrial products such as soap, glycerin, and dynamite are manufactured from the oil.

SMILES

Congressmen are forever behind with their work. A few days ago a senator wrote a letter to a general who has been dead for 115 years.

★ ★ ★

A mass of 600 tons of rock fell from Gibraltar to the sea. Is nothing stable?

★ ★ ★

A national survey indicates not so many pedestrians were injured in 1945 as the year before. We can't say whether it's because they were more careful, or whether there were fewer of them left.

★ ★ ★

When a man picks on someone his own size, he often becomes extremely modest in his opinion of himself.

★ ★ ★

Policeman: "How do you know the men who stole your car were professionals?"

Motorist: "Because no amateur could have started it."

★ ★ ★

New York women are being taught to speak for this year's Presidential campaign. Nothing surprises us any more since the government opened the woodcraft class for Indians.

Wife: "Have you ever wondered what you would do if you had Rockefeller's income?"

Husband: "No, but I have often wondered what he would do if he had mine."

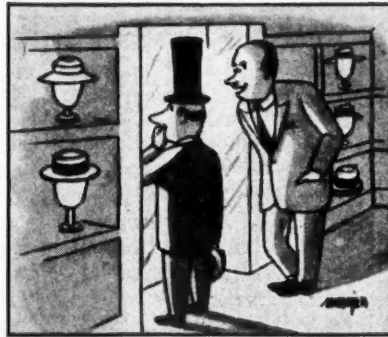
★ ★ ★

Young Ethiopian women wear veils so their young men cannot see their faces until after marriage. In this country they wear cosmetics.

★ ★ ★

Visitor: "How many students are there in the university?"

Guide: "About one in five."



"Notice how it creates the illusion of height!"

Readers Say—

This paper had an article recently giving safety hints. The rules suggested can be very helpful. There would be fewer accidents if drivers of cars, trucks, and buses put the rules into practice. Students who go to cheer their basketball teams when they play in other towns can follow the suggestions, too. In one of the spring issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, I hope to read that the number of accidents has been reduced during the snowy winter months.

BEVERLY HOPKINS,
South China, Maine.

★ ★ ★

I was interested in your article "Youth Weather Station." I think more activities of this kind should be brought into the school systems. They are educational and useful, and they would do much toward solving the problems of delinquency. If other schools have similar projects, we should like to hear about them.

MICHAELENE PAULE,
Connellsville, Pennsylvania.

★ ★ ★

I am in favor of the military training bill as it is now before Congress, except for one matter. I do not think that eligibility for military training should be based on age. Young men should be inducted immediately after graduation from high school. Then, there would be no interruption of college education later on. While spending a year in military training between high school and



college, young men would have a longer time to choose a vocation. They would also receive technical training that would help them in making a choice.

JOHN FRIEDMAN,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

★ ★ ★

Fae Arnold of Wisconsin writes that the large recording companies have left out the average musician, because of the competition of the "name" artists. To present the other side of the issue, we say: Who wants to listen to anything but "name" recordings? People want to be sure they are getting records that are up to par. They depend on "name" artists to be sure they are getting the best.

SARAH O'BRYON and
CAROLEE EBERHART,
Lawrence, Kansas.

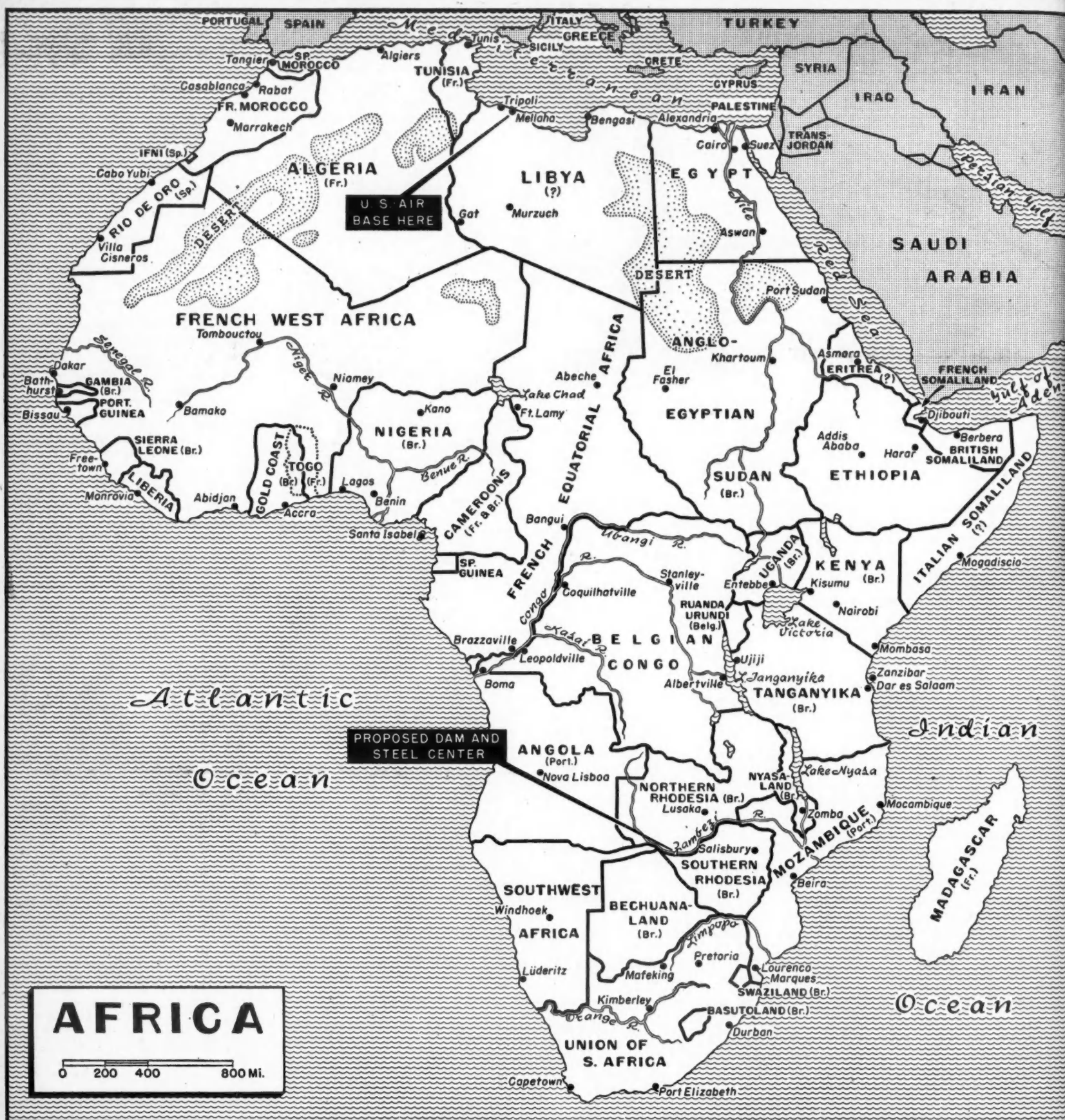
★ ★ ★

One of the arguments against military training is that it would interfere with a young man's education. I am fully in favor of the training plan, and I feel that men who really want to go to college will do so even if they have to discontinue their education for a year.

DON MATHIASSEN,
McCool Junction, Nebraska.

Pronunciations

Eritrea—ēr'ē-trā'ah
Iran—ē-rah'n
Johannesburg—yō-hahn'ēs-burg
Bechuanaland—bēk'ōō-ah'nah-lānd'
Mozambique—mō'zahn-bēk'
Niger—nī'jer
Nigeria—nī-jēr'ī-ah
Nehru—nay'rō
Somaliland—sō-mah'lē-lānd'
Uganda—yō-gān'dah
Zambezi—zām-bē'zi
Navajo—nāv'ah-hō



Dark Continent

(Concluded from page 1)

harness the Zambezi River, between Northern and Southern Rhodesia. Electricity generated at the dam will be used by a new steel mill which is to be built in the same area.

Both in Rhodesia and Tanganyika, rich coal mines are being developed. It is said these deposits are so huge that they can supply all the coal Britain needs for hundreds of years.

Farm machinery will be brought in to speed the production of food. In Tanganyika, for example, three million acres of unoccupied land will be opened for cultivation. With the aid of modern implements, that land is to produce 600,000 tons of peanuts a year.

The British also hope to obtain more cocoa from West Africa, tin from Ni-

geria, diamonds from Tanganyika, copper from Northern Rhodesia, cotton from the Niger River valley, meat from East Africa, and rice from West Africa. Timber will be taken from vast African forests, and the colonies will be searched for new deposits of minerals.

For the people living in the colonies, the British will provide hospitals and schools. Without these, disease and ignorance would flourish, and make it difficult to turn the colonies into a region of thriving farms, mines, electric power plants, and factories.

From the plans drawn up by the British, it can be seen that Africa is one of the world's last great frontiers. The continent is so "young" in fact, that vast areas of it were first explored within the memory of living men. It has been producing minerals, timber, and food for many years, but

man has scarcely scratched the surface of the wealth which lies within it.

The continent measures 5,000 miles from north to south and 4,500 miles at the widest point from east to west. With 11,700,000 square miles in area, it is about four times as large as the United States. The population of Africa—about 155 million—is almost the same as the combined populations of Canada and the United States.

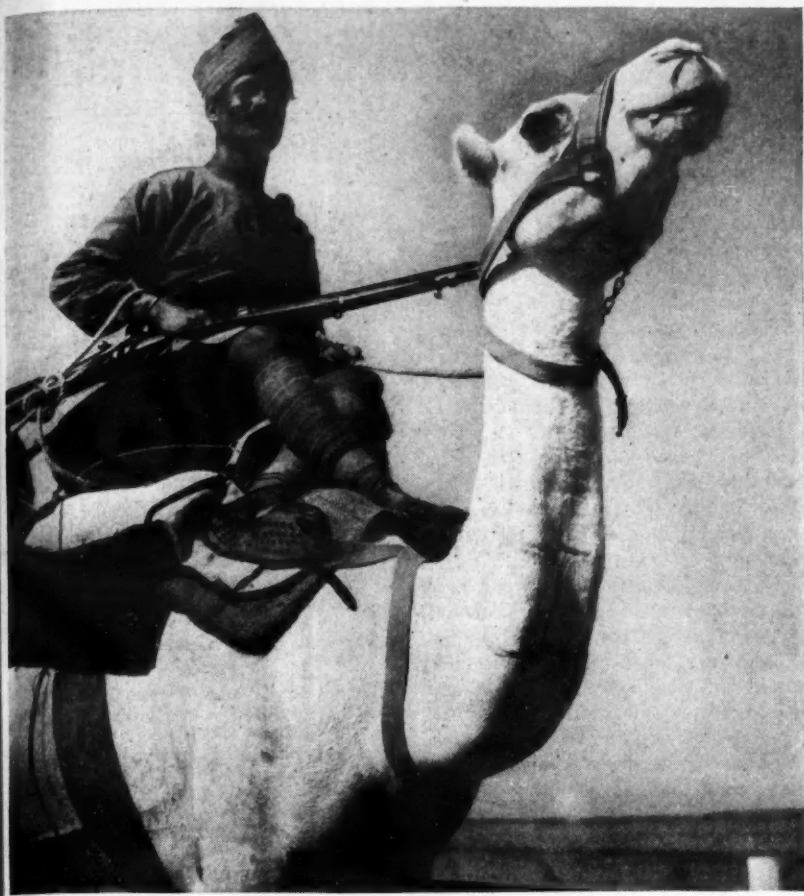
All but a few million of Africa's inhabitants are members of the colored races. They speak more tongues than the people of any other continent, and some of them are the poorest human beings on earth. Large numbers of the natives follow ancient tribal customs, and live just as their ancestors did centuries ago.

Most of the continent is divided into colonial lands ruled by Britain, France, Belgium, Spain, and Portugal. At one

time Italy had important African colonies, too, but these were taken from her after she was defeated in World War II. Future control of the Italian colonies has not yet been decided.

The independent countries of Africa are Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, and the Union of South Africa. As a dominion of the British Empire, South Africa has many ties with the mother country, but like Canada and Australia, she is a self-governing nation.

Africa's soil will grow almost anything that grows elsewhere in the world and more besides. If you were to add up all the farm products which the world's nations buy from abroad, you will find that one-sixteenth of them come from Africa. Among the leading agricultural products are cotton, palm oil, citrus fruits, wool, coffee, cocoa, and rubber. And it is certain that Africa can be made



DESERT PATROL—an Arab soldier on camel near the Suez Canal

to produce far more than she has in the past.

Gold, diamonds, and copper are the big money-makers taken from beneath Africa's earth, but they are not the only minerals. Africa produces 26 of the 27 minerals which are most sought after by man. Among them are tin, coal, iron, manganese, and chrome. From the Belgian Congo comes uranium—the raw material of atomic energy.

If Africa's rivers were fully harnessed they could produce three and a half times as much electricity as could be generated on all the rivers of North America. The dam which Britain intends to build on the Zambezi River will tap only a small fraction of the total power which is available in African rivers.

There are, to be sure, serious obstacles in the way of making full use of Africa's wealth. Many of the natives are ignorant and superstitious. Jungles, deserts, and swamps remain to be conquered. The climate is so hot and humid in many places that people cannot work well.

In parts of the continent, transportation is slow and difficult. There are few good highways and railroads, and many of the rivers are so full of rapids that they are difficult to navigate. Thanks to the airplane, however, Africa does not have to depend on slow land and water transportation. With the building of more airports, many of the difficulties of travel and freight-hauling may be solved.

The problems of developing Africa, of course, vary in different parts of the continent. Except for fertile farmlands along the Mediterranean coast, the northern part is largely desert. It is chiefly inhabited by Arabs, most of whom live along the coast. There are a few cities, with many French and Italian residents.

In the central equatorial part of the continent live Negroes and a very few white men. The vast Sahara, world's largest desert, lies chiefly in this part of the continent. Here, too, are great areas of dense and steamy jungle for-

est. Scattered widely in the broad central belt of Africa are the wild animals for which the continent is famous. The most livable sections of the central part are along the coasts, and they produce such things as palm oil, cotton, timber, tin, rubber, rice, cocoa, and coal.

Farther south, the Negroes are still greatly in the majority, but there are a large number of white people. The climate here is milder, and this is the part of Africa which has thrived.

Such cities as Capetown, Durban and Johannesburg, in the Union of South Africa, are large modern centers which compare favorably with important cities in the United States. There are great ranches and rich gold and diamond mines in this section.

Although large areas of Africa will never be fit for human habitation because of the heat, deserts, and jungles, there are many regions which are expected to become far more attractive than they are today. This is particularly true in the colonies which Britain plans to develop during the next 10 years.

United States and World Trade

(Concluded from page 2)

We have made treaties of this kind with 29 nations. How well the plan works is a matter of dispute. There are many people in the United States who say that it does not sufficiently protect American industries from harmful or ruinous competition. Supporters of the plan reply that this trade program has helped more of our industries than it has hurt.

This whole issue will be debated by Congress and the American people during the next several months. The Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act expires in June, and Congress must decide whether or not to continue it. We shall pass on to our readers the opposing arguments as they are presented in the future.

U. S. Presidents - - Jackson

ANDREW JACKSON was born in 1767. Historians disagree on whether his birthplace was in North or South Carolina. Jackson grew up without much home supervision or formal education. He became restless and hot-tempered, but courageous and honest. In his late teens the boy studied law. He was admitted to the bar while quite young.

At the age of 21 Jackson became a United States district attorney. He did not, however, confine himself to the practice of law. At one time he kept a store. He also traded horses and dealt in real estate.

In 1796 Jackson was a member of the convention that adopted a constitution for the new state of Tennessee, which had been a part of North Carolina. He was Tennessee's first representative in Congress. Later he was a state supreme court judge.

Early in the 1800's, Jackson was a leader in the Tennessee militia. He engaged in numerous Indian fights. He became a major general in the U. S. Army during the War of 1812, and his victories during that conflict made him a national figure.

When the war came to an end, Jackson re-entered politics. He sought the presidency in 1824, but did not win it until 1828. After serving two terms as President, he retired to his home, "The Hermitage," near Nashville, Tennessee. He died there in 1845, at the age of 78.

Andrew Jackson's election to the Presidency has been called a political revolution, because new forces in American politics carried him to power. He represented the small farmers and workers as against wealthy people who had been in charge of the government. He spoke for the West as against the East.

The election of a man who represented the less privileged groups was symbolic of a democratic spirit that was abroad in the land. Property qualifications for voting were being abolished, and thus the city workers and landless farmers were gaining in political power.

Jackson believed that government should be in the hands of "the people," and that jobs in the national administration should be passed around. So, when he became President, many government employees were turned out and their places were taken by Jackson's followers. The

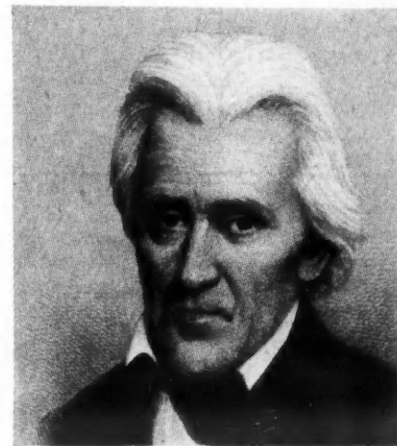
"spoils system" was inaugurated. It made administration less efficient, but it gave the poorer classes for the first time a feeling that the government was their own.

With respect to the larger issues of the day, Jackson's opinions were often ill informed. He tried, however, to follow the wishes of the people who trusted him.

For example, he knew that farmers in the West and laborers in eastern cities wanted the undeveloped public lands to be open for settlement. He supported these people and the lands were kept open. Nothing was done, though, to keep farms from falling into the hands of people who did not want to work the land but who merely held it until prices rose so that they could sell at a profit. Because the President did not fully understand the problem, he served the interests of his people only partially.

Jackson took a strong position against the National Bank and destroyed it, because he felt that it was serving special, powerful interests. He failed, though, to establish any sound substitute for the National Bank. Partly as a result of this failure, a depression came soon after the end of Jackson's administration.

Probably Jackson's most effective contribution was in giving the plain



ANDREW JACKSON, seventh President

people confidence in themselves and their power. After his two terms in office, the common man could not be ignored by government leaders. The cause of political democracy was greatly advanced by Andrew Jackson when he was President.

A Career for Tomorrow - - Retail Stores

IN planning their careers, young people frequently look forward to owning a retail shop. If their interest is in sports, they believe they could be successful in a small store specializing in athletic equipment. Others would like to have a clothing store, or a shop handling electrical equipment, luggage, or other goods.

Ambitions along these lines should not be discouraged. The retail business is one of the largest in the country, and it is vital to us.

Nevertheless, persons who plan a career in this field should study it carefully before making a final decision. The work is not easy, and the percentage of failures is high, especially among persons who do not plan in advance for the serious problems they will meet during the first year or two that they are in business.

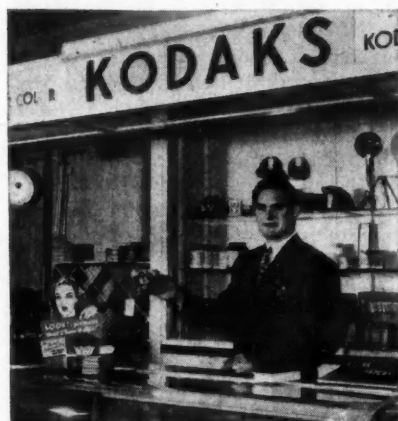
Educational background is not as important for the owner of a retail shop as are his experience and personal qualifications. One should, of course, take full advantage of the opportunities he has in high school or in college. Such subjects as English, psychology, bookkeeping, accounting, and business management are very helpful.

The retail trade is one, though, that is best learned through on-the-job experience. A young man or woman who thinks he might eventually like to own a store can begin to get this experience by finding a job in an established firm during his next vacation. Such work will not pay a large salary, but it will give a student an insight into the retail business.

The range of abilities and talents that the field requires is wide. The owner of a small retail shop must be a hard-headed businessman. He must be able to keep up with details, and he

must know how to get along with people—both his customers and his employees. He must be a salesman and a manager.

The need for advance planning by one who is about to open a store cannot be overemphasized. A large proportion of the failures among small retail businesses are traced to the fact that the owners did not make adequate preparation to meet the problems that would arise during



A SMALL retail camera shop

the first two years—especially the financial problems.

Space does not permit us to go into the many questions that should be considered by the prospective shop-owner. They cover such points as the amount of money that will be necessary, the location in which one is to start his shop, the number of employees that will be needed, and so on.

The best advice on these problems can be secured from persons who know the conditions in relation to a particular locality and with regard to the products that are to be sold. Wholesalers who deal in the kind of

goods one wants to sell can give a great deal of information about markets, people's preferences, costs of setting up a shop, and so on. Real estate men, bankers, and local chambers of commerce are also good sources of information.

In general, it is roughly estimated that one must spend from \$2,500 to \$15,000 to open a shop of his own. The price depends largely upon the size and location of the store, and upon the kind of goods it is to handle.

Incomes of shop owners also vary greatly. Many earn five to ten thousand dollars annually. On the other hand, many others clear only very small amounts of money or, worse yet, go into the "red." Local sources can give the best information and advice on the subject of incomes for retail businesses.

There are other minor points that should be considered by students who are interested in this field. Working hours for the owner of a business are likely to be long. For the first few years that an establishment is open, the owner must give it almost all his time and energy. On the other hand, the work is challenging. The owner can use his ingenuity and imagination to an extent not usually possible when he is working for someone else. He can see the results of his work and, if he succeeds, the rewards belong to him.

Two helpful pamphlets on the retail field can be secured from the Domestic Distribution Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington 6, D. C. One is "What It Takes to be a Retailer." The other is entitled "General References for Prospective Businessmen," and lists numerous other sources of information.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS

Personalities in the News of Today

THE National Institute of Arts and Letters awards a medal each year to a man or woman who, during his entire career, has made an outstanding contribution in some field of learning, such as physical science, social science, or literature.

This year the medal will be given to Charles A. Beard, for his work as a social scientist. Dr. Beard taught in Columbia University for some time, but for a number of years since then he has devoted himself to independent research and writing. He has written books on European and American history, government, political science, and current international problems. He is frequently spoken of as the "dean of American historians," and he has exerted a profound influence on social and political thinking in this country.

His many books, considering the seriousness of their subject matter, have had a remarkably wide sale. They have been read by most informed and thoughtful people.

Two of Beard's best known books

are "The Rise of American Civilization" and "A Basic History of the United States." His wife, Mary R. Beard, who is also an eminent historical scholar and writer, worked with him in the production of both books. The Beards do their writing in the quiet of their farm in Connecticut.

For 17 years Dr. Beard has been a member of the editorial board of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER and affiliated publications.

★ ★ ★

Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the Dominion of India and head of the Congress Party, is doing his utmost to keep his country on the peaceful path laid out by Gandhi. If that group of the Congress Party headed by Nehru continues to stay in power, the Dominion of India will undoubtedly make every possible effort to maintain peaceful relations with Pakistan, the new Moslem nation.

Nehru was born into a wealthy Hindu family in India 58 years ago. He received a good schooling in England where he was graduated from Cambridge University and studied law. Upon his return to India he joined the independence movement. After World War I he became a devoted follower of Mohandas Gandhi.

Throwing himself wholeheartedly into nationalist activities, Nehru was repeatedly jailed by the British for his part in the independence movement. He spent more than five years as a political prisoner. Meanwhile he became known throughout India.

In addition to working for Indian independence, Nehru has tried to bring about social and political reform in his native land. Gandhi long ago designated Nehru as his successor. When the Dominion of India came into being last August, Nehru was made Prime Minister.

The Indian leader is of medium size with clean-cut features and a graceful bearing. He gave up the practice of law years ago to devote himself entirely to politics. He likes swimming and all kinds of winter sports.

Chemists now say that they have found a method of treating topsoil with chemicals which make it claylike. Since the claylike soil does not wash away easily, the earth becomes more resistant to floods.

Study Guide

Foreign Trade

1. Name five products which the United States must get from other lands.
2. What are five important products which other countries get from the United States?
3. True or false: During 1947 more goods were shipped out of America than were sent in from foreign lands.
4. If a thriving commerce is to be maintained, why must foreign lands sell as much to us as they buy from us?
5. Describe the trading situation between the United States and other countries in the period from 1914 to 1933.
6. What changes did the Reciprocal Trade Agreements bring about?
7. When must Congress decide whether or not to continue the Reciprocal Trade Program?
8. What is the purpose of the conference which has been meeting at Havana?

Discussion

1. Outline the policy that you think this country should follow in its trade relations with foreign lands. Tell why you think your plan is a practical one.
2. Do you feel that a country should try to become as self-sufficient as possible, or should it depend on trade with other countries to supply products that would be impossible, difficult, or expensive for it to produce itself?
3. Would you favor or oppose our belonging to and working with an International Trade Organization, the purpose of which would be to lower trade barriers and promote a maximum of world commerce?

Africa

1. Give several reasons for the present British and American military activities in Africa.
2. Compare the continent's area with that of the United States.
3. Briefly describe British plans for development of that continent.
4. What are some of Africa's outstanding natural resources?
5. List some obstacles that have prevented a greater development of these riches.
6. Up to the present time, what parts of Africa have thrived the most?

Discussion

1. What plans would you emphasize first if you were in charge of an over-all modernization program for Africa? Explain.
2. What do you think is the greatest drawback to the continent's development? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Do you favor or oppose our government's decision to reopen its military base in Libya?

Miscellaneous

1. Why are a number of southern Democratic leaders threatening to work against Truman in the coming Presidential contest?
2. What was Gandhi's outstanding contribution to the world as a whole?
3. Briefly describe the plight of the Navajo Indians, and tell what the government is doing about the problem.
4. Do you believe that Congressmen should, in the main, lead or follow their constituents?
5. Why has Iran again become a source of dispute between the United States and Russia?
6. What was Andrew Jackson's main contribution to American life?
7. What is the latest censorship decree issued to the Russian people by their government?

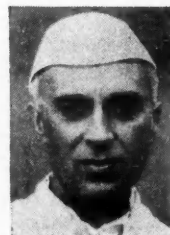
Outside Reading

"Our Foreign Trade Crisis," by Robert Heilbroner, *Harper's*, November 1947.

"More Than Conquerors," by Otto Mallery, a book published in 1947 by Harper & Brothers, New York, price \$3.00. This small book, available in many libraries, handles difficult world trade problems very clearly and simply.



Beard



Nehru